

# New Jersey Ghana and South Africa

## Trade and Business Mission



### FAST FACTS: REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

#### Geography

South Africa is located at the southern tip of the African continent. The nation is slightly less than twice the size of Texas. Capital: Pretoria; note—Cape Town is the legislative center and Bloemfontein the judicial center.

Bordering countries are Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. The republic's terrain includes a vast interior plateau rimmed by rugged hills and narrow coastal plain.

South Africa's climate is mostly semiarid; subtropical along east coast with sunny days and cool nights.

Elevations range from 0 at the Atlantic Ocean to more than 11,000 feet at Njesuthi, the country's highest point.

#### Economy

Imports were \$28.1 billion (f.o.b., 2001 est.) and included machinery, foodstuffs and equipment, chemicals, petroleum products and scientific instruments.

Major industries include mining (world's largest producer of platinum, gold, chromium), automobile assembly, metalworking, machinery, textile, iron and steel, chemicals, fertilizer and foodstuffs.

South Africa is a middle-income, developing country with an abundant supply of resources, well-developed financial, legal, communications, energy, and transport sectors.

South Africa has a stock exchange that ranks among the 10 largest in the world, and a modern infrastructure supporting an efficient distribution of goods to major urban centers throughout the region.

Growth has not been strong enough to cut into the high unemployment rate.

At the start of 2000, President Mbeki vowed to promote economic growth and foreign investment, and to reduce poverty by relaxing restrictive labor laws, stepping up the pace of privatization, and cutting unneeded governmental spending.



In 2001, the economy slowed largely the result of the slowing of the international economy.

#### Natural Resources

Gold, chromium, antimony, coal, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, tin, uranium, gem diamonds, platinum, copper, vanadium, salt and natural gas.

#### U.S. Embassy

Ambassador Cameron H. Hume. The embassy is located at 877 Pretorius Street, Pretoria.

Mailing address:

P. O. Box 9536,  
Pretoria 0001.

Telephone: [27] (12) 342-1048.

Fax: [27] (12) 342-2244.

Consulates are located in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg.

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Detailed information of the Republic of South Africa can be found on the U.S. Department of State Web Site [www.state.gov/p/af/ci/gh](http://www.state.gov/p/af/ci/gh) and the Central Intelligence Agency's World Factbook 2002 <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/index.html>

Americans living in or visiting South Africa are encouraged to register at the Consular Section of the nearest U.S. consulate and obtain updated information on travel and security within South Africa.

### **Entry/Exit Requirements**

U.S. citizens traveling to South Africa require a valid passport. A visa is not required for regular passport holders on bona fide holidays or business visits for periods of up to 90 days or in transit.

Travelers may obtain further information from the Embassy of South Africa  
3051 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008  
telephone (202) 232-4400,  
Web Site at <http://usaembassy>.

Travelers must declare all goods in their possession with the exception of personal clothing, essential toilet articles, and used sporting equipment. In order to be free from declaration, these goods must be for the passenger's personal use and not intended as gifts or to be sold, exchanged, or traded. All articles, used or unused, carried by the visitor as presents or parcels for other persons, must be declared.

There are no restrictions on the amount of U.S. currency that may be taken into South Africa. But, U.S. Dollars cannot be used in South Africa and must be converted into Rand by authorized foreign exchange dealers, hotels, commercial banks, and certain travel agencies.

It is illegal to convey foreign currency to anyone else and Dollars may not be used in commercial or other private transactions.

### **Safety and Security**

Political violence has significantly decreased in most areas of South Africa since the establishment of a democratically-elected government in May 1994.

Areas most frequented by tourists, such as major hotels, game parks, and beaches, have generally been unaffected by political violence.

Travelers are encouraged to be vigilant and avoid any large gathering. While visiting game parks and reserves, leaving your vehicle or otherwise being on foot can be dangerous, even in the presence of a guide.

There have been several incidents of wild animal attacks on tourists in the region, which have resulted in deaths and serious injury.

### **Medical Facilities**

Private medical facilities are good in urban areas and in the vicinity of game parks and beaches, but they may be limited elsewhere.

### **Medical Insurance**

The Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation.

U.S. medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased.

Useful information on medical emergencies abroad, including overseas insurance programs, is provided in the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs brochure, Medical Information for Americans Traveling Abroad, available via the Bureau of Consular Affairs home page or autofax: (202) 647-3000.

### **Other Health Information**

Information on vaccinations and other health precautions may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's international travelers hotline at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (877-394-8747); fax: 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299), or via the CDC's Internet site at <http://www.cdc.gov>

### **Business Attire**

South African business people tend to dress conservatively. Loud sports jackets and slacks are rarely seen at work.

South African businesswomen tend to wear woolen or woven cotton blend suits in the cooler months April through August. In the warmer months cotton or linen suits are appropriate. Men tend to favor medium or heavy woolen suits for year-round wear.

During the warmer months of October through March, darker lightweight fabrics such as tropical worsted are appropriate and a lightweight raincoat is recommended. A medium-weight overcoat is recommended for the colder months of April through August.